

From: T.D.Kameron
Affiliation:
Address: PO Box 1132
Ashland, New Hampshire, 03217

Comment: July 17, 2004

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Office
Att'n: Northeast NPR-A Planning Team
222 West Seventh Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Planning Team,

1 Please accept these comments and request for additional information on the proposed amendment to the oil and gas leasing plan for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve Environmental Impact Statement. I am especially concerned about the impact the Bureau of Land Management's proposal would have on the area around Teshekpuk Lake, one of the most unique and important wetlands in the entire Arctic.

2 I urge you to adopt Alternative A, the "No Action" alternative, because it would maintain protection for the entire Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area. This extraordinary ecosystem provides critical habitat for molting geese and nesting habitat for Steller's eiders, northern pintails, yellow-billed loons and other species. It also supports a vitally important caribou herd that Alaska natives depend on for their subsistence.

3 Eighty-seven percent of the northeastern reserve is already open to oil and gas companies for leasing. In the five years since the original 1998 northeast plan, additional information and analyses have been accumulated that point toward significant impacts on fish and wildlife if more of this sensitive area is opened. It would be a huge mistake to risk the internationally significant ecological resources of Teshekpuk Lake for a short-term supply of energy, especially when we know that the United States cannot drill its way to energy independence.

4 Again, I urge you to choose Alternative A, the "No Action" alternative, to protect the reserve's irreplaceable wildlife, wilderness and subsistence values for future generations.

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Should an action alternative be selected, I would like to have a copy of the monitoring plan for water and biological resources. I am interested in the documentation of mitigations being considered for use, including how the BLM will ensure these mitigations are being implemented and why these mitigations are considered effective, how they will be monitored, and what actions will be taken if monitoring show mitigations are not working. My address is: Kameron, PO Box 1132, Ashland, NH 03217.

Sincerely,

T.D. Kameron
PO Box 1132
Ashland, NH 03217-1132
USA
kameron1@adelphia.net

Website Comment **092949**

092949 (Cont'd)

From: T.D.Kameron

Affiliation:

Address: PO Box 1132
Ashland, New Hampshire, 03217

Attached: None